

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 23, 2004. Claims 1-68 were pending, with claims 1 and 12 in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 18, 19 and 21, without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the claims in one or more continuation applications, and amended claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 40, 42-48, 57, 60, 63 and 66 into independent form. Accordingly, claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 20 and 22-68 are pending, with claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 40, 42-48, 57, 60, 63 and 66 being in independent form.

Claims 1-3, 5, 12-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. Hei 10-91294 (Kohama et al.). Claims 7, 8, 10, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kohama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,864 to Sujita. Claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22-68 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but, according to the Office Action, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-14, 16, 18, 19 and 21, and amended claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 40, 42-48, 57, 60, 63 and 66 into independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.


If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our

Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400